

know many of my colleagues on the Republican side came from the business world, as did I, would never do anything like that. They would be laughed out of the marketplace.

But what this comes down to is taking money from the Social Security beneficiaries and using it for a tax cut, which we could not need. But even worse than that, what this would do is add to the national debt, that is already starting to consume a vast amount of our annual Federal budget.

And what does the Congressional Budget Office say? The Congressional Budget Office says even if we stayed within the levels of the 1997 balanced budget agreement, but allowed for demographic growth, no increase in spending, with the growth in Medicare and the growth in the Social Security system as the baby-boomers come on line with retirement, that our national debt could get as high as 200 percent of the gross domestic product by the middle of the next century, which would mean that interest on the debt would become the largest Federal program and would start to squeeze out things like education, like national defense, as well as Social Security and Medicare.

Now, let me also remind my colleagues what the esteemed chairman of the Federal Reserve, who we often hear about on the floor of the House from both sides of the aisle, said about the situation. He was very clear in a hearing before the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services just a few weeks ago that paying down the debt was the most important thing we could do. In fact, he said the paydown of debt associated with the Federal surplus has helped hold down long-term interest rates.

Let us not spend the Social Security beneficiaries' money on a tax cut. Let us pay down the debt.

INFORM AMERICAN PEOPLE OF RESULTS OF ATTACKS ON TERRORISTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 21, 1997, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago the President addressed the Nation and told the American people that based on convincing evidence he had linked the bombings of the embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to Osama bin Ladin, the Saudi millionaire whose base of operations is in Afghanistan. He went on to say that he had given our Armed Forces orders to launch cruise missile attacks against these targets. The first, of course, was a terrorist training camp in Afghanistan. The second target was a pharmaceutical plant in Sudan where evidence pointed to the fact that it was being used to manufacture chemical weapons.

Mr. Speaker, what troubles me about this is that since these strikes were

made, we have not heard anything more from the President or his administration about this matter. The question is, did we achieve our bombing objectives at these two sites? Where is Mr. Ladin today? Is he still alive and still operating in secret and conspiring against the United States, or was he in the training camp when we destroyed its base of operation in Afghanistan?

As the days went by after these retaliatory strikes were carried out, new information surfaced about the pharmaceutical plant in Sudan. On September 1st, the Los Angeles Times reported that Shifa Pharmaceutical Plant produced human and veterinarian medicines for the impoverished nation and the evidence about Mr. Ladin's financial stake in the facility had been overstated.

Mr. Speaker, the President owes this country a full accounting, because the orders he gave, which were carried out, could have far-reaching effects that impact every U.S. citizen living both here and abroad. There is a long history of terrorist activity against the United States. Sadly, our response has been weak at best.

I would like to read you a quote from Mr. Jensen, an international editor of the Rocky Mountain News in Denver in his article entitled "Responding to Terrorist Attacks." He states,

Our government imposes sanctions on so-called rogue nations that sponsor terrorism, which hasn't altered their behavior one bit, but one makes no effort to go after terrorists on the ground. In most cases it does not even retaliate for terrorist attacks.

Mr. Speaker, we are a civilized nation and thus far have refrained from fighting terror with terror. Is that the answer? Mr. Jensen goes on to say that Israel, through the Mossad, has perfected the art of fighting terror with terror.

Mr. Jensen's article also points out that over the last few years, 90 foreign hostages, including 11 Americans, have been held in captivity by Hezbollah and its operatives. Eleven were killed or died while in captivity.

Such atrocities cannot be allowed. Do we as a nation deal with such vicious attacks against our citizens by seeking to use the rule of law? According to Mr. Jensen, in the few instances where we have retaliated, such as President Reagan's bombing of Libya and President Clinton's use of the Tomahawk missiles, the civilian casualties that resulted have caused such international outrage that our reasons for taking such actions were totally obliterated.

We must make our enemies realize that if they take action against our country, we will take swift and decisive action against them as well.

Therefore, it is not my intention this morning to criticize the President's actions, because I think they were justified, based upon American intelligence and foreign intelligence. Thousands of people were killed in Kenya and Tanzania, and I do not think we should stand

idly by and pretend it did not happen. However, I am concerned that we have lost credibility in the international community because of the confusion about why we took the actions we did against these specific targets.

Mr. Speaker, my message is simple today: Mr. President, do you not think the American people have a right to know whether our mission was successful? Please tell us today.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 38 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EWING) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Kenneth L. Samuel, Victory Baptist Church, Stone Mountain, Georgia, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Gracious God, our help in ages past, our hope for the new millennium, and our strength to stand this day, we are deeply grateful for the amazing grace and the wondrous mercies which have established us and sustained us as a people. Lord God, we have seen you move in and throughout our history to cultivate us and to correct us and to challenge us to make real the vision of our national mantra: One Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

We know that the challenge to secure the rights of everyone, without denying the rights of anyone, is easier said than done. We know that the distinction between mercy for our weaknesses and judgment for our wickedness is often difficult to discern. But we also know that for every noble vision, You provide sufficient provision. And so we look to You for divine direction to accomplish Your divine directive.

Father, when You have shown us the way, please give us the courage and the faith to walk therein. We thank You today not just for the blessings You have bestowed upon us, we thank You today for the opportunity to make our blessings count. We thank You today for the opportunity to demonstrate our greatness through our service to humankind, and in that light we ask that You would help us to become greater than we have ever been before.

We offer this prayer in the name of the Christ who came that we might have life, and life more abundantly. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MYRICK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

DISPENSING WITH CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR ON TODAY

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the call of the Private Calendar today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 1-minutes on each side.

REPUBLICAN MEMBERS DESERVE APPLAUSE FOR PLAN TO SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY WHILE PROVIDING TAX RELIEF

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, this morning I heard a lot of demagoguery from this side of the aisle. And let me say that I am not one to brag about things, but I believe that the Republicans have found a sound, logical, and fair plan to save the Social Security trust fund.

Now, we might not be able to eat a pack of crackers and at the same time whistle "Dixie", like some of my liberal colleagues, but, Mr. Speaker, Republicans have come up with a plan to save Social Security while at the same time providing tax relief to the American workers.

The Republican budget surplus plan, the 90-10 plan, sets aside 90 percent of the general revenue surplus until we make good on our commitment to save Social Security. The other 10 percent will be used for real tax relief to the American working men and women.

No smoke and mirrors here, Mr. Speaker. While my liberal Democratic colleagues on the other side of the aisle would like to use the same surplus to fund more of the same bureaucratic nightmare programs that, frankly, make Baby Elmo look like Freddie Kruger, Republicans are fighting to use

this money to shore up the Social Security trust fund and provide real tax relief to the American working families.

I applaud my Republican colleagues for their hard work on this historic legislation, and I urge all Members in the House to support the 90-10 plan.

IN HONOR OF THE EXHIBITION: LINUS PAULING AND THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

(Mr. BROWN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on the exhibition, Linus Pauling and the 20th Century, which will open in San Francisco on September 20th.

This national touring exhibition is dedicated to the late Dr. Linus Pauling for his extraordinary contributions to science and humanity. In 1954, Dr. Pauling received the Nobel prize in chemistry. He also won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1962.

The exhibition is designed to inspire audiences with the life of one of the greatest scientists and humanitarians of this century and to teach our children about the important role scientists can play in the progress of human culture and world peace.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the role of Dr. Daig Ikeda, President of Soka Gakkai International, for his initiative in organizing this special exhibit. Dr. Ikeda, an international peace activist, developed a deep friendship with Dr. Pauling during the final years of his life, and their dialogue was published in a 1992 book entitled, "A Lifelong Quest for Peace."

Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in supporting this exhibition to promote the legacy of Dr. Pauling in the U.S. and around the world. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the opening of the Exhibition: Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century.

CASTRO REGIME NOT READY TO REFORM ITSELF FROM TOTALITARIAN VISION

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as if we needed more evidence about the national security threat posed to the United States by the Castro regime, the FBI yesterday arrested 10 individuals for operating a spy ring in the U.S. for the Cuban Communist regime.

The Cuban spy ring's mission was the collection of information about U.S. military installations and anti-Castro groups operating in Florida.

The FBI bust is the latest proof that after 40 years in power, the Castro regime has no intention of changing its totalitarian ideals or its hatred for the freedom and democracy represented by the United States.

Castro continues to support international terrorist groups, is constructing a dangerous nuclear power plant a few hundred miles from the U.S., and is said to be developing the capability for biological weapons. This does not sound like a regime ready to reform itself from the totalitarian vision that it continues to promote.

Those who continue to make excuses for the Cuban tyrant's behavior should finally wake up to reality.

AN AMERICA WITH TWO LEGAL STANDARDS IS AN AMERICA WITH NO LEGAL STANDARDS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, if Joe Q. Citizen lied in a civil trial, he would be sued for every penny. If Joe Q. Citizen lied to a Grand Jury, he would go to jail. Lying is perjury. Perjury is a crime.

Now, having said that, what is going on here, Mr. Speaker? Does America now have two legal standards, one for you, one for me; one for he, one for she; one for generals, one for soldiers; one for Presidents, one for residents?

Let us tell it like it is. Joe Q. Citizen cannot apologize, Joe Q. Citizen is not censured, Joe Q. Citizen is prosecuted. And let me warn Congress: An America with two legal standards is an America with no legal standards.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of the lives of all of the soldiers that gave their lives fighting to preserve our freedom.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH DOOLIN OF HILLSBORO, ILLINOIS

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to commend a constituent of mine from the 20th Congressional District of Illinois: Sarah Doolin of Hillsboro.

At the young age of 16, Sarah is already an accomplished leader. As a leader of Brownie Troop 535, which is a position almost exclusively reserved for adults, she earned the J. C. Penny Golden Rule Award. In addition to these exceptional accomplishments, she has also done volunteer work at The Escape, and is a member of the 4-H Club.

With all the negative things in the news these days about young people, it is quite refreshing to be reminded there are many Sarahs all over our great Nation, demonstrating leadership by volunteering and taking the initiative in their communities. Thanks for restoring our faith in the future, Sarah.

NATIVE AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY

(Mr. ROHRBACHER asked and was given permission to address the House